

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended to correct several typographical errors and to make it consistent with the drawings. No new matter is added.

Claim 8 is herein cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1, 3, 22, 24 and 25 are herein amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-7 and 9-33 are now pending.

I. Claim Rejections – Informalities

Claims 1, 3, 22, 24 and 25 have been amended to more clearly distinguish between the space platform trajectory and the signal trajectory. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant notes that the rejections due to informalities are now addressed. As such, claims 1, 3, 22, 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the discrepancy.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 2, 7-13, 18-21, 24-27, 29 and 32 if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as set forth in the Office Action, and if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. Applicant has amended claim 1 to contain the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Allowable claim 24 contained similar subject matter, and this subject matter was amended into claim 22. Thus, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 14-17, 22, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chang *et al.*, (US 6,313,790) is traversed.

Applicant discloses the structure of three fixed bases where at least one fixed base has a transmitter and a receiver. Each of the fixed bases has a precision clock, and the precision clocks in each of the fixed bases are synchronized with the precision clocks in the other bases. The transmitter emits pulses in a determined frequency, at a predetermined reference instant and containing information of the instant of emission. Each pulse from each fixed base is transmitted to all the fixed bases through a communication device located in the space platform.

Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to claim "a precision clock in each of the fixed bases, the precision clocks being synchronized with each other." Chang does not disclose a precision clock in the base stations, which are roughly equivalent to the Applicant's fixed bases, and only discloses "a single clock" in the primary ranging node. *See* column 4, line 45.

Chang is different from the Applicant's system in that it does not have precision clocks in each of the bases, requires range-rate measurements to determine satellite position and cannot instantaneously determine the satellite position. As such, Applicant discloses a device which operates differently than the device of Chang with structure positively recited in claim 1 which is not disclosed or suggested by Chang. Therefore, it is understood that claim 1 avoids Chang and is in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6, 14-17 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has also been amended to claim "a precision clock in each of the fixed bases, the precision clocks being synchronized with each other" As such, for the reasons noted above, claim 22 avoids Chang and is in condition for allowance.

IV. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 22-23, 28, and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knight *et al.*, (US 5,570,096) is traversed.

Applicant discloses the structure of three fixed bases where at least one fixed base has a transmitter and a receiver. Claim 22 of the Applicant's invention has been amended to claim a "precision clock in each of the fixed bases."

Knight discloses receivers, which are similar to the fixed bases in the Applicant's invention. The Knight receivers receive the signals from the satellite and convert the signal to digital form. *See* column 4, lines 50-53. However, the Knight receivers do not contain a precision clock.

Additionally, Knight discloses a system that obtains a Doppler shift, and it is Applicant's understanding that Knight is transmitting a signal of some duration. He is not transmitting only a pulse.

Further, Knight does not disclose or suggest the structure of a control unit as is positively recited in the last paragraph of claim 22.

Clearly, for the reasons noted above, claim 22 avoids the Knight reference and is in condition for allowance. Claims 23, 28, and 30-31 depend from claim 22 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

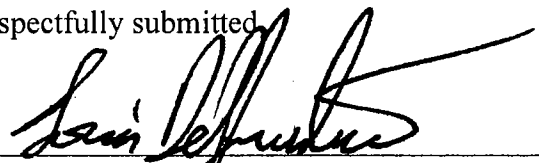
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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